

Uncle Sam, Patriarch, and the Philippines

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

I WANT to tell you of Uncle Sam's work in the Philippine Islands. We have had possession of them for over twelve years, and it is high time we were taking account of stock and knowing what has been done. They are, as you know, under the War Department, and the Bureau of Insular Affairs is in constant communication with them by traveling officials and by letters and cablegrams, so that the exact situation can be at any time known. I have spent this week talking with General Clarence Edwards, the head of that bureau, and in looking over the reports which have recently come. I have also seen many of the officers who are just back from there, and as a result can give you up-to-date news.

The Philippines in 1912. Most of us know mighty little of the Philippines. We think that they are a lot of tropical islands on the other side of the Pacific. We have heard that the archipelago bumps its head against the Island of Formosa, which now belongs to the Japanese, and that it kicks its feet about 1,200 miles farther south—against the Island of Borneo, a possession of the Dutch and the British. We have heard that there is on the west, and Hawaii somewhere on the east, but just how big the islands are and what they contain is a problem. That I shall leave for geography. I will only say that the archipelago, including the water within it, would cover about one-fourth of the United States proper. If it could be dropped down upon it, that it comprises something like 2,000 volcanic mountainous islands, and that from east to west it is greater than the distance from Boston to Pittsburgh, and from north to south about as long as from Philadelphia to Omaha.

The islands altogether have as much land as New England. Luzon is bigger than Ohio; Mindoro and Negros are each as large as Delaware; Mindanao would more than cover Pennsylvania, and Samar is the size of Connecticut. The islands contain, according to our own last census, something like 8,000,000 people. Of these 1,000,000 are savage or semi-civilized, believing in spirits and witches or in the prophet Morio, and the other 7,000,000 are Christians with the same God as our own. That was what we got for the \$20,000,000 we paid for the archipelago at the close of our war with Spain.

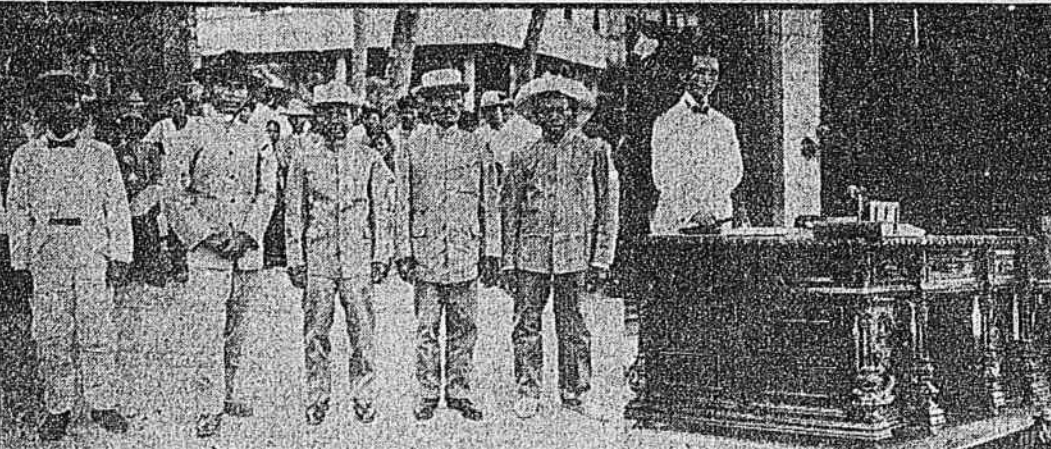
Establishing a Government. Yes, we got that and more. We got one of the biggest civilizing jobs of all times. The people had been mis-governed for centuries. Justice was bought and sold and bribery and graft reigned supreme. Eighty per cent. of the people were ignorant and all lacked faith in their rulers. Taxation was heavy, extortion was common, and none had any rights which the rulers were bound to respect. There were practically no public improvements. The roads were impassable for a greater part of the year, schools were almost unknown, and every locality had its brigands and bandits. In addition, the chaos caused by the war, and out of the whole Uncle Sam had not only to create a government of the people and for the people, but to start the wheels of our modern civilization.

It is this work he is doing. I traveled about the islands in 1899, when we were about taking charge. The army was then re-establishing the governments of the towns. As soon as a municipality was conquered the officers called the people together and had them elect a town council and mayor. They organized municipalities of that kind throughout the archipelago, allowing each town to govern itself, and from that they have gone on until the Philippines are now practically self-governed, not only as to the municipalities, but as to the provinces and as one great island whole.

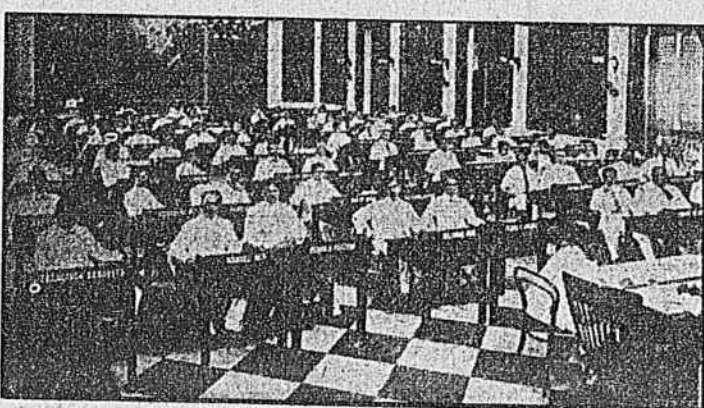
Uncle Sam Controls the Machinery. This has been done with our national government at the back as adviser and director. Uncle Sam still controls the machinery, and he will continue to do so notwithstanding the cry of the Filipino agitators for independence.



Each province chooses its own officials. These are the provincial officials of Ilocos Sur, in northwestern Luzon.



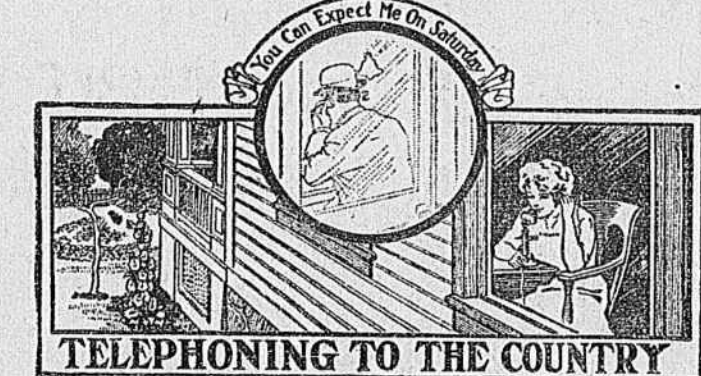
THE LEPER COLONY GOVERNS ITSELF. This is its municipal president and councillors—all lepers.



THE FILIPINO ASSEMBLY. It contains eighty members elected from the various provinces.

President Taft, General Edwards and our other officials who know the Philippines best realize that to allow a free hand in the present condition would result in anarchy and chaos. It will be long before the islands can be absolutely free, and their future seems to be bound up with ours.

Nevertheless the whole country has been politically reorganized. The archipelago has been divided into thirty-eight provinces. Seven of these are inhabited by the Moros and the non-Christian tribes, and in these there are governors appointed by the Governor-General at Manila, who is at the head of the Philippine Commission. The other thirty-one provinces practically govern themselves. Each province chooses its own officials. It has



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Court of the Philippine Islands is equal to the courts of any State of our Union. This is in ability and honesty. I doubt whether the same could be said of the provincial courts. It is said to get good judges. The old Spanish judiciary was corrupt, and the American judges did not understand the languages or dialects. They were not familiar with the local laws. On the other hand, the Filipino judges were not familiar with our ideas of equity. There was a distrust on the part of the people and the government. I am told that this has passed away and that the Filipinos are attaining high rank as judges. Out of twenty-nine judgeships, fifteen are held by Americans and fourteen by Filipinos.

The laws are enforced by the police, and the papers of the justices and the courts are served by them. There is now a police force in every town, and this is so even of the colony of lepers, which has its own government. For some years after we took hold of the islands the police was done by our army. There were brigades everywhere, and almost every bamboo clump had a bandit. The towns had to be protected from invasion, and every public road was guarded by soldiers. As it is now, the provinces and municipalities protect themselves with their own police and the aid of the constabulary.

When I visited Billbid it was dirty and filthy. The prisoners are now made to keep clean and everything spotless. There is no waste or litter. The men are on their good conduct, and they may rise from class to class as they do better. At present 90 per cent. of the prisoners are in the first class. The prisoners are well fed and they seem to be contented. They are taught trades of all kinds, and they do excellent work. There is a carriage and wagon department, which makes wheels which are sent broadcast over the islands. There are also silver-making shops, weaving rooms and departments where they make hats and baskets. Some of the prisoners are carpenters, some painters and painters. There is also a tailor's shop and a large printing establishment. There is an execution yard, where the murderers are hanged. The garrote has disappeared.

Our Penal Colony at Iwahig. One of the most remarkable of all prisons is the penal colony at Iwahig, made up of life prisoners, murderers and others who have been sent there as a reward for good conduct at Billbid. This is on a little island adjoining Palawan. It consists of a reservation of 270 square miles, occupied by prisoners who are engaged in manufacturing and farming. These convicts govern themselves. The only Americans connected with them are their superintendent, C. H. Lamb, and an agricultural expert, brought in to teach them to farm. They elect their own officers and make their own laws. They have jury trials, in which the vote of the convict is given, although the superintendent has the right of veto. Such of the convicts as break the laws may be flogged or sent back to Billbid. The convicts can marry if they wish, and they may bring their wives and families to live with them. There are now forty-two women in the colony, and six marriages have occurred this past year.

Uncle Sam's Police Force. But I want to tell you something about this constabulary, as the government police force is called. It is the development and improvement of the old guardia civil of the Spanish. It now consists of about 5,000 men, who are scattered all over the islands, acting as advisers and aids to the local police, as the protectors of the roads and as the guards of the wild men. There is a detachment of this police in or near every town, and its officer is a part of the community where it is stationed. He guards it from thieves, and he hunts up the stolen animals and quarantines the sick ones.

The constabulary has completely wiped out brigandage. The records show it has captured 11,000 bandits and killed more than 4,000. It has retaken about 10,000 stolen animals and returned them to their owners.

This government force consists largely of natives, being made up of fighting men from all parts of the Philippine Islands. Some of the men are Moros, some Igorrotes, some Visayans and some Macabebes and others. All have been trained by the soldiers, and we have a training school at Baguio, where they are instructed. They make excellent fighters, and are proud of their positions.

The Reform of the Prisons. Since we took possession of the Philippines, we have brought about some of

the greatest prison reforms of the world. Take Billbid, which was once about the most horrible penitentiary of the far East. Its prisoners were flogged, and the only mode of execution was by the garrote, a machine which broke the neck of the victim, or rather screwed the head back until the neck cracked.

That institution is now one of the finest prisons under the American flag, and one of the largest of the world. The buildings have been remade, and the institution is now laid out like the spokes of a wheel, with a tower in the center. There is a great wall around it, and upon this are twelve guard towers, in six of which stand American soldiers armed with galling guns, shotguns and revolvers. In the other six are native guards, also armed, but not with galling guns. In the center tower stands an American guard with a loaded revolver and three rifles. This man has control of the lighting of the prison, and he can, in an instant, turn off the electricity, but he will not do it to turn in a great deal of money to the support of other prisons on the islands.

General Edwards tells me of a visit he paid last year to Iwahig. He was rowed to the shore by a boatman, and he found a couple of murderers acting as the family servants of the governor. Mrs. Lamb is the only American woman on the island, and she has two little children. Her cook is a convict.

The Health of a Nation. A great deal of Uncle Sam's work has had to do with the health of the Philippines. The islands are being cleaned up and the cities worked over. Manila has new sewers, which cost about \$2,000,000, and it has a water supply brought in from the headwaters of the Marikina River, which are held back by a dam sixty feet high. The reservoir there contains hundreds of millions of gallons, and it is fed by a wild, mountainous region, where the water is pure.

The mosquitoes are being cleaned out of Manila and elsewhere. The canals have been dredged and the mounds filled up, and parks have been built, and this is so in most of the cities, not only for the Christians, but for the wild men as well. We have doctors connected with the leading tribes, and the savages, instead of making sacrifices to pacify the spirits of disease, are now coming in for castor oil, liver pills and surgical treatment.

A Campaign of Health Education. A campaign of health instruction has been undertaken, and doctors are going

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(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) Berryville, Va., January 27.—Miss Alice Nicely, of Martinsburg, W. Va. is visiting at the home of Mrs. John B. Neill.

Miss Mary Bentley, of Frederick, Md., has returned to her home after a visit to the Masses Moore. Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Brown, of Roanoke, are guests at the home of Dr. R. P. Page.

Dr. and Mrs. A. P. Osborne were in Washington last week.

Mrs. John Lee and little daughter, of Martinsburg, W. Va., visited relatives in the county recently.

Miss Nora Moore, of Washington, is visiting her sister, Miss Jane C. Moore, in New York.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Milton are visiting relatives in Wilmington, N. C.

Miss Mamie White is spending some time in Richmond.

Mrs. E. M. Thompson is visiting relatives in Cumberland, Md.

Mrs. J. Sloan Kuykendall and children, of Romney, W. Va., who have been visiting Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Williams, have returned to their home.

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